

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02325 291611Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----090547 291618Z /43

P R 291542Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8766

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2325

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PBOR BC RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA-BOTSWANA BORDER CLASH

REF: GABORONE 1983, GABORONE 1975

1. DURING MOST RECENT GRAHAM/LOW VISIT TO SALISBURY, LTG

PETER WALLS, COMMANDER OF COMBINED OPERATIONS, DESCRIBED TO GRAHAM HIS VERSION OF THE CLASH ON THE RHODESIA-BOTSWANA BORDER LAST WEEKEND (REFTELS) BETWEEN ZIPRA AND THE RHODESIAN FORCES. ACCORDING TO WALLS, ABOUT 100 ZIPRA PERSONNEL CROSSED THE BOTSWANA BORDER INTO RHODESIA NEAR PLUMTREE JUNE 23. A RHODESIAN LYNX OVERFLEW THEIR POSITION, WHEREUPON THE ZIPRA FORCE RETREATED ACROSS THE BORDER AND APPEARED TO BEGIN SETTING UP FOR AN ATTACK, WITH THE NEWLY FORMED EX-GUERRILLA "SECRET ARMY" AS THEIR APPARENT TARGET.

2. WALLS SAID THAT HE TOLD MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE ABOUT THE SITUATION AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY ASK THE RHODESIAN FOREIGN

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OFFICE TO CONTACT BOTSWANAN AUTHORITIES TO INFORM THEM OF THE MATTER. ACCORDING TO WALLS, THE BOTSWANANS SENT A DEFENDER TO OVERFLY THE ZIPRA POSITION AND ALSO DISPATCHED SOME GROUND UNITS TO THE AREA. WHEN THE ZIPRA UNIT CONTINUED PREPARATIONS FOR ATTACK AND PROBED ACROSS THE BORDER ONCE AGAIN, THEY WERE ENGAGED ON A SMALL SCALE BY THE RHODESIAN UNIT. THE ZIPRA FORCE THEN RETREATED BACK INTO BOTSWANA.

3. WALLS TOLD GRAHAM THAT HE BELIEVED THE ZIPRA RETREAT  
IN LARGE PART WAS DUE TO THE BOTSWANAN SURVEILLANCE AND  
INTERVENTION. HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED AND GRATIFIED AT THE  
WAY IN WHICH BOTSWANA HANDLED THE INCIDENT.

LOW

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BORDER INCIDENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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